

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Applicants Admitted Prior Art (AAPA) in view of Shi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,339,200); claims 3, 4 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the AAPA in view of Shi et al. and further in view of Chen (U.S. Patent No. 6,590,848). The foregoing rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 2 and 4 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1 and 6 have been amended to include the features of cancelled claim 2.

Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6 are currently pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

### **Regarding claims 1, 3 and 5:**

Claim 1 has been amended to recite **“a flexible printed circuit comprising: a first flexible printed circuit electrically connecting the circuit board and the main base, and a second flexible printed circuit electrically connecting the main base and the tray, wherein a ground pattern is formed on the second flexible printed circuit to ground static electricity; and a base cover coupled to the main base to protect the main base, wherein an exposure portion of the ground pattern is formed on an end portion of the second flexible printed circuit, and a contact portion electrically contacting the exposure portion of the ground pattern is formed on the base cover so that static electricity applied to the base cover is grounded”**. Claim 6 has been amended to recite features somewhat similar to those recited in amended claim 1. None of the foregoing references relied upon, individually or combined, discuss these features.

In contrast, the AAPA discusses an optical disc drive having a main base and a base cover installed on a bottom of the main base, and a bracket to support a spindle motor. The base cover includes a through hole to receive a contact portion of a leaf spring for ground. The leaf spring is bent and contacts with the base cover and the bracket are assembled to the base cover to remove the static electricity applied from the outside to the base cover (see paragraphs [0005] – [0010] of the specification; and FIGS. 2-5, for example). The AAPA fails to discuss the Applicants “exposure portion” as recited in claim 1, for example (see FIG. 3, for example).

Further, at page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that the AAPA fails to discuss “a contact portion electrically contacting the exposure portion of the ground pattern is formed on the base cover so that static electricity applied to the base cover is grounded,” as

recited in claim 1, for example. However, the Examiner asserts that Shi et al. discusses this feature.

Shi et al. merely discusses an electrostatic insulation for an operating unit for electronic equipment. Specifically, Shi et al. discusses a camera switch-operating unit having a metal supporting plate and a flexible printed circuit (FPC) provided under the supporting plate. The contact of the supporting plate contacts with the ground pattern on the FPC such that static electricity is directed to the ground through the supporting plate (see Abstract). In FIG. 4, the supporting plate which supports a switch button of the switch-operating unit, and the FPC are shown.

The combination of the AAPA and Shi et al. fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention.

**Regarding claim 6:**

At page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner admits that the AAPA fails to show that a contact portion is formed by cutting a pad of the base cover and bending the cut part. However, the Examiner asserts that Chen discusses this feature.

Neither the AAPA nor Chen individually or combined, discuss “a flexible printed circuit comprising a first flexible printed circuit electrically connecting the circuit board and the main base, and a second flexible printed circuit electrically connecting the main base to the tray, wherein a ground pattern is formed on the second flexible printed circuit and an exposure portion of the ground pattern is formed at an end portion of the second flexible printed circuit and is exposed outwardly to ground static electricity,” as recited in amended claim 6, for example.

Further, neither of the foregoing references discuss **“a contact portion of the base cover is bent toward the exposure portion of the ground pattern** and a cut surface of the contact portion is not coated with the insulation layer to allow electricity to flow from the contact portion to the exposure portion of the ground pattern, as also recited in amended claim 6”.

Chen discusses a disk drive cage assembly, the cage includes a metal sheet having four side walls. Each pair of opposite side walls includes tabs extending inwardly corresponding to bays for guiding data storage devices to slide therein. Grounding clips are formed between the tabs to contact the data storage devices and to thereby establish conductive paths between the data storage devices and the cage (see column 3, lines 10-32; and FIG. 3, for example).

The combination of the AAPA, Shi et al. and Chen fails to establish a prima facie case of obviousness over the present invention.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

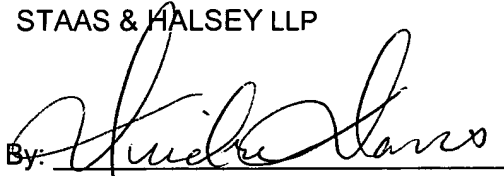
Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Date:

7/25/2006

By:

  
Deidre M. Davis  
Registration No. 52,797

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501